

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2006-07

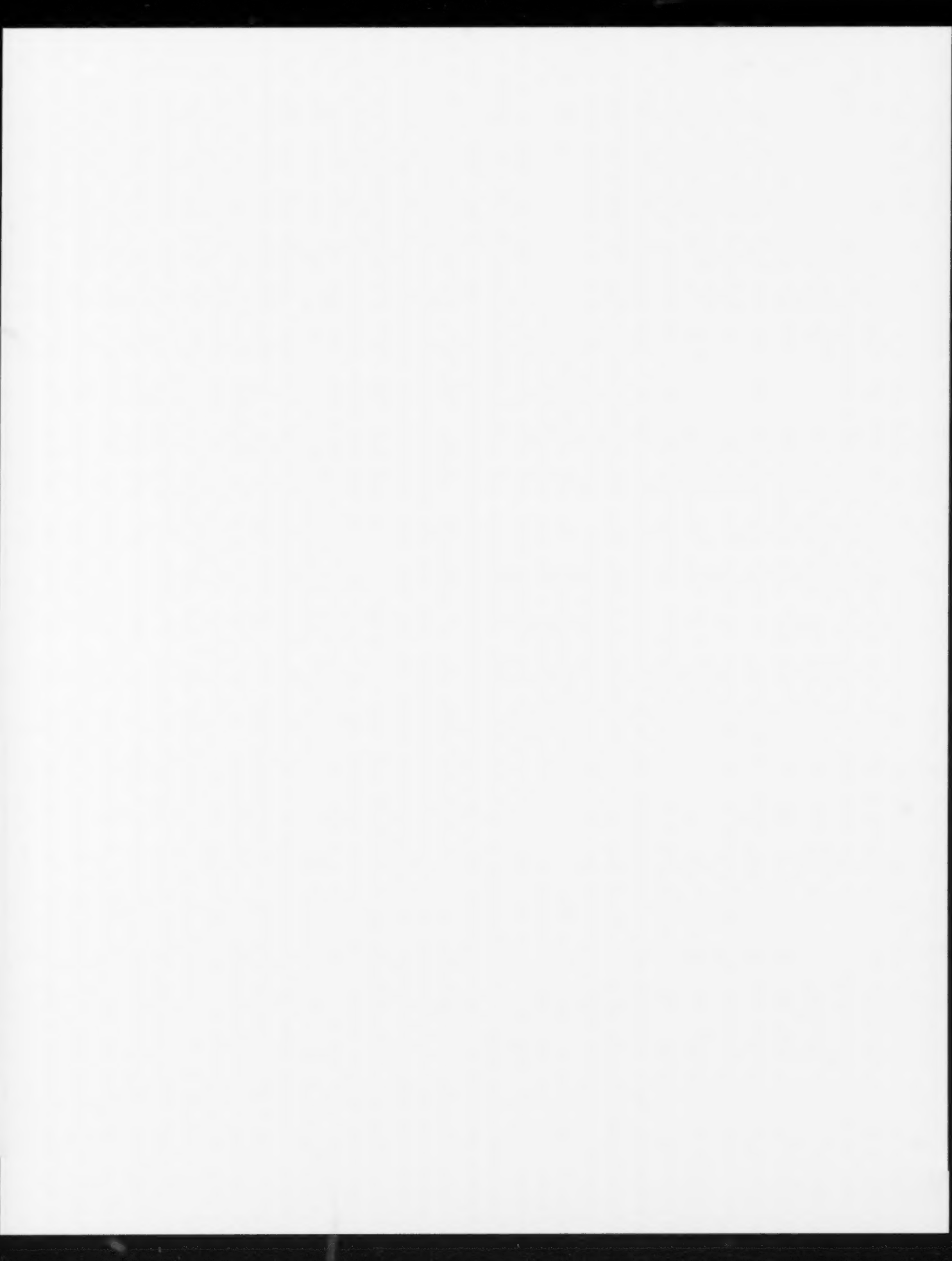


Newfoundland
Labrador

Cover: Proposed Law Courts, Corner Brook, Sheppard Case Architects

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

It is my pleasure to submit to the House of Assembly the Department of Justice 2006-07 Annual Report. The Department of Justice is a Category 1 entity as defined by the *Transparency and Accountability Act* and this report is submitted in accordance with that legislation.

In the past year the Department continued to make progress towards commitments that impact its diverse client base. It has enhanced protections for victims of family violence and has technologically advanced the province's support enforcement mechanisms. It has made progress in responding to the Lamer Inquiry Report. The Department has also advanced its efforts to provide an enhanced justice service to aboriginal people and their communities via an interpretation strategy.

I commend the work undertaken by the dedicated and committed staff of the Department of Justice to make the justice system accessible and understood by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This report covers the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. The outcomes reported reflect government's strategic directions for the province's justice system and my signature below indicates my accountability for the actual results.

Jerome P. Kennedy, Q. C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General



DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

Vision

A justice system that is accessible and understood, and which plays a key role in creating a fair, equitable and safe society where all people can pursue their lawful rights and freedoms

In fulfilling its mandate, the Department of Justice operates in several overall broad capacities:

- as a central agency of government
- as a direct provider of critical and diverse public services
- as an administrator of major societal institutions

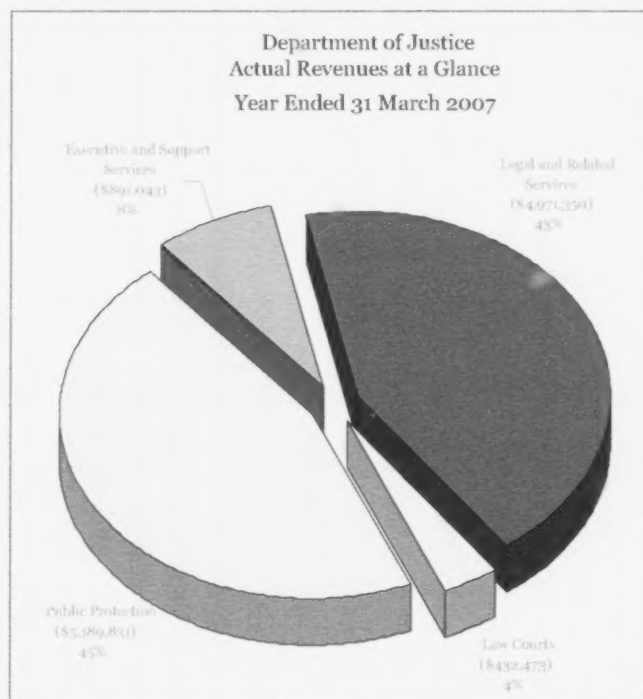
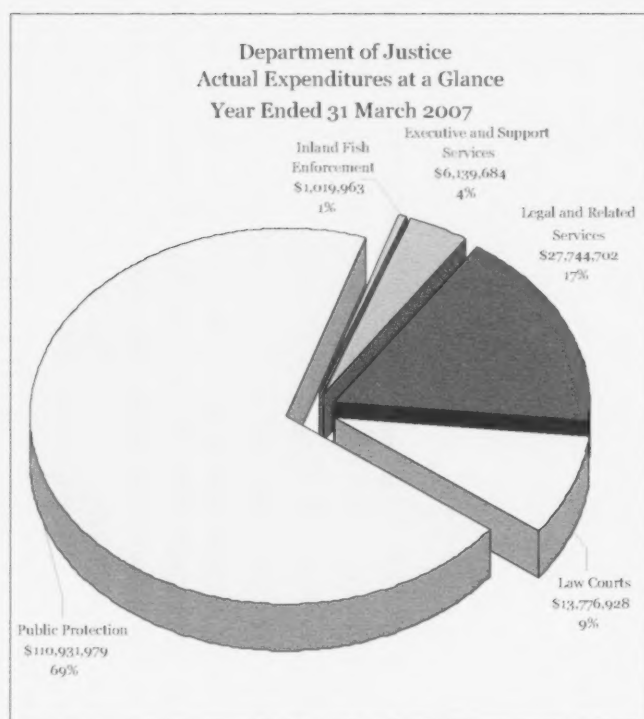
The Department of Justice responsibilities are represented throughout the following distinct lines of business:

- *The Office of the Legislative Counsel* is responsible for the provision of legislative drafting services to government and, in conjunction with the Office of the Queen's Printer and the House of Assembly, the publication and dissemination of the legislation of the province.
- *Policing Services* are delivered through the Province's two policing agencies: the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Both police forces are responsible for fostering and maintaining peaceful and safe communities through a

full range of policing responses. The RNC's largest jurisdiction is the predominately urban northeast Avalon region; additionally there are detachments in Corner Brook, Labrador City and Churchill Falls. The RCMP is responsible for the remainder, approximately 60% of the Province's population, many of whom reside in rural and remote areas.

- *Court Administration and Related Services* is responsible for providing infrastructure and administrative support to the Supreme and Provincial Courts. It also includes related services such as Support Enforcement, Family Justice Services and the Office of the High Sheriff.
- *Corrections and Community Services* has a dual client focus in having responsibility for offenders as well as for victims of crime. It is responsible for the safe and secure custody of young and adult offenders through existing correctional centres and secure custody facilities; for providing adult community corrections in the form of probation services; and for providing services to victims of crime involved in the criminal justice system through a regional network of 11 Victim Services Offices.
- *Public Prosecutions* is responsible for prosecuting all Criminal Code and provincial statute matters in the province. Prosecutors appear in every level of court in the province and in the Supreme Court of Canada. There are nine Crown Attorney offices in the province.

- **Civil Law** is responsible for providing legal services to government departments and government's agencies. This takes the form of providing legal opinions, drafting commercial and financial documents and representing government and its agencies in negotiations and civil actions before administrative tribunals, all levels of court and judicial inquiries.
- **The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office** oversees the implementation and coordination of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This legislative regime is designed to create a culture of openness and accountability in the public sector. The office promotes this culture to government departments, agencies and government-funded public bodies.
- **Policy and Strategic Planning** is responsible for providing leadership in the identification, development and implementation of broad policy initiatives, departmental and horizontal planning, and accountability processes in government and for supporting informed policy development through internal and external stakeholder engagement. The provision of legal policy services supports the development of new or more effective social and/or legal objectives.



Mission

By 2011 the Department of Justice will have enhanced services and responses in the provincial justice system to improve public access to and confidence in the system.

Who We Are:

The Department of Justice directly employs 1,358 people to ensure timely and efficient delivery of its varied mandates. Occupations in the department include: solicitors, social workers, police officers, criminologists, youth counsellors, sheriff's officers, administrative and financial professionals, and executives. 82 per cent (1,111) of our 1,358 employees enjoy permanent status, while 16 per cent (216) are temporary and the remaining 2 per cent (32) are contractual.

The Department of Justice employs a slightly younger segment of the population when compared to the remainder of government. 46% of our employees are in their 40's compared to 37% for the entire public service. 21% of our employees are aged 50-plus compared to 33% of the public service.

While we do have a "young" workforce it should be noted that two segments of our employees - Correctional Officers and Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Officers - are able to attain retirement eligibility with 25 years service. Thus, of the 156 employees who are currently eligible to retire 120 are in the uniformed services. 171 of the 275 employees to reach retirement eligibility over the next five years are in the uniformed services.

Adult Corrections (Secure):



In 2006-07 our correctional facilities admitted:

- 365 Provincial term prisoners
- 99 Provincial intermittent prisoners
- 103 Federal prisoners
- Admissions decreased by 2.66 per cent from the previous fiscal year
- \$190 per day is the average cost to house a prisoner in Newfoundland and Labrador

Community Corrections:

- 506 pre-sentence reports prepared and submitted to the courts in 2006-07 down from 674 in 2005-06
- In 2006-07 1,620 individuals were placed on probation for Community Corrections supervision. This number is down 12.7% from 2005-06 which saw 1,857 admissions

Youth Corrections (Secure):

- in 2006-07 47 male youth and 13 female youth participated in the Pre-trial Services Program as a alternative to entering secure youth custody
- in 2006-07 the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Centre admitted 243 youths to overnight, remand custody and sentenced custody combined. (Note: A youth taken in to remand and then sentenced would count as a remand admission and a secure custody.

Family Justice Services:

- Expanded in 2006-07 with the creation of 11 new positions located throughout the Province

Fines Administration:

- \$7.6 million collected during 2006-07 of which \$6.2 million was provincial revenue and \$1.4 million was collected on behalf of third parties
- With the introduction of the Provincial Victim Fine Surcharge on April 1, 2006, \$298,678 was collected through automatic assessment on provincial ticketable offences and \$61 through imposition in court
- The Fines Collection Initiative, continued in 2006-07, resulted in collections of \$1.5 million up from \$1.3 million in 2005-06

Office of the High Sheriff:



- Commenced expansion of service to ensure eventual presence in 62 courtrooms in the province
- Escorted 2,803 individuals
- 5,174 orders registered
- 5,941 documents served
- 49,718 Judgement Enforcement Registry searches conducted via the World Wide Web
- 1,797 Judgement Enforcement Registry searches conducted in person

Public Prosecutions Division:

- Prosecuted 7,220 cases during 2006-07
- 38 Crown Attorneys located in 8 regions
- Special Prosecutions unit located in St. John's

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police:



- 418 Regular Members
- 38 Civilian Members
- 65 Public Service Employees
- 1 First Nations Community Policing Member
- 303,281 people served from 44 detachments and 6 satellite offices
- 334,001 km² policed

Source: RCMP: 2006-2007 Annual report
Newfoundland and Labrador "B" Division

Royal Newfoundland Constabulary:



- 327 non-commissioned officers
- 15 commissioned officers
- 102 civilian members
- 208,708 people served from three detachments: Northeast Avalon; Corner Brook; and, Labrador West.
- 71,719 km² policed

Support Enforcement:

- \$25.4 Million in collections increased by \$1.4 Million over the previous year
- 7,850 active cases; 36,000 hits on SEA Web Portal
- The Interactive Voice Response System handled an average of 12,834 calls per month during 2006-07

Victim Services:

- 3,473 new referrals in 2006-07
- Services provided from 11 locations in the Province
- Acquired testimonial aids for vulnerable witnesses
- Funded Community Education Committees to deliver violence prevention education

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office:

- 375 requests for information received
- Individuals (45 per cent) have overtaken the media (29 percent) as most frequent requestors
- 266 general responses made with 80 percent being made within 30 days of request and 17 percent in 30 to 60 days

Civil Division:

- Restructured to accommodate division of roles between Minister of Justice and Attorney General.
- Corporate and Commercial Unit added to the Division
- Increased by five solicitors for child, youth and family service legal matters in response to recommendations contained in the *Turner Review and Investigation* by Peter H. Markesteyn, M.D., F.C.A.P.

Office of the Legislative Counsel:

- Drafted the 69 pieces of legislation that received Royal Assent during 2006/07
- Drafted the 107 pieces of subordinate legislation registered and published in the *Gazette*

Policy and Strategic Planning:

- In supporting government's shift to horizontal and integrated planning, was an active partner in the Violence Prevention Initiative the Poverty Reduction Strategy and also contributed to the Northern Strategic Plan
- In partnership with the Justice Minister's Committee on Violence against Women, led the implementation process for the *Family Violence Protection Act*



Maintaining The Right by artist Arnold Friberg in memory of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police members who were killed in the line of duty is accepted by the Honourable Minister of Justice Tom Osborne

From left: RCMP Sgt. J.D. Walsh, RCMP Chief Superintendent Bill Smith, Minister of Justice Tom Osborne, Assistant RCMP Commissioner Gerry Lynch, President of the RCMP Veteran's Association Ken Ellis and Ralph Alcock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Justice.

Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Chief of Police Joe Browne presents Constable Nicole Percey with her Royal Newfoundland Constabulary badge at the Swearing In ceremony and Graduation Parade held in Corner Brook September 2006



SHARED COMMITMENTS

The Shared Commitments section of this report explains how others influence the Strategic Directions of the Department. As a service provider, the Department of Justice is constantly engaged in partnerships with other provincial government departments and agencies, federal and territorial governments, community groups and non-governmental organizations. This section will focus only on those partnerships which contributed to the achievement of the Strategic Directions. Additional partnerships will be included in the Highlights/Accomplishments section of this report.

Strategic Direction: Public Protection, Order and Safety

As a partner in government's Violence Prevention Initiative, a key Justice commitment in 2006-07 involved enhancing legislative provisions for victims of family violence. On July 1, 2006 the *Family Violence Protection Act* became law. This *Act* provides a new justice system response in the form of Emergency Protection Orders to help adult victims of family violence and their children in emergency situations. In preparation for the *Act* to become law over 1,100 service providers received training in the new legislation. Through the Minister of Justice's Committee on Violence Against Women and other avenues officials from the Department of Justice, Women's Policy Office, Provincial Transition House Association, Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the John Howard Society and the Violence Prevention Initiative's Regional Committees (eastern and western) made solid contributions to this legislation in the development of the legislation, related policies and a comprehensive training program.

First Nations Policing agreements continued when in April 2006 the Police Services Agreement between the provincial government and Miawpukek First Nation – Conne River was extended. The agreement provides a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer to Conne River and continues the positive relationship that has been fostered between the Miawpukek First Nation Band and the RCMP.

In 2006-07 the Gendarmes of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon became a partner in the Criminal Intelligence Service of Newfoundland and Labrador. This partnership will enhance the exchange of information related to criminal activity affecting Newfoundland and Labrador and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in conjunction with officers from Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police hosted an officer of the Gendarmes Nationales for a language improvement initiative during the past year. This initiative is designed to improve communication and relationships between the two forces and to serve as a foundation for future joint force efforts.

The Department of Justice continued its sound investment in policing throughout the 2006-07 year. Of note:

- 26 recruits graduated from the joint Memorial University / Royal Newfoundland Constabulary training program. All were sworn into the force in September 2006. 30 recruits were admitted to program in September 2006 to graduate in September 2007.

- The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary saw its complement of police officers increased by nine new positions and the civilian staff was also increased by nine.
- The Province significantly increased the complement of staff in the Criminal Intelligence Service of Newfoundland and Labrador from 4.5 positions to 11 intelligence and administrative staff.
- The Corner Brook detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary increased its complement by ten officers deployed from St. John's.
- The Department of Justice provided funding for an additional 18 Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers, two civilian members and two half-time public service employees.

The province continued to fund 70% of the overall operating costs of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police within the province. In addition, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador provided \$2,007,500 to increase the number of RCMP officers serving in the province. A further \$184,500 in funding was allocated to civilian positions and \$3 million to cover significant operational pressures such as increases in fuel prices, property rentals and maintenance, medical services and mandatory training. In the fiscal year 2006-07 the RCMP/RNC Joint Forces "Operation Backboard" resulted in the arrest of four adult males and the seizure of 3 kilograms of cocaine. While "Operation Backboard" was ongoing two further arrests and seizures not directly related to project occurred. An adult male was charged when 1.5 kilograms of cocaine and 25 pounds of marijuana were seized and another adult male was charged when 4,293 "Ecstasy" tablets were seized.

Strategic Direction: Access to Justice

The Support Enforcement Division has continued its established relationships with other provincial and territorial governments to permit the reciprocal enforcement of support orders with other jurisdictions. Through these agreements and other enforcement-related activities which sometimes require the cooperation of other departments, access was enhanced to those relying on information about and enforcement of court support orders.

Legal Aid Services, available to those who have a demonstrated need and are unable to pay for legal representation, continue to be funded by the provincial and federal governments. Until the mid 1980's the federal government contributed 90 percent of the criminal legal aid funding. The level of federal funding two decades ago was 50 percent. At present the federal government is contributing approximately 25% to the Province's legal aid costs. Advocating for additional federal support and contribution has been a Justice priority.

Strategic Direction: Aboriginal Responses

The Department of Justice's commitment to improved responses to aboriginal concerns has fostered a unique relationship between the Department and the Government of Nunavut.

During the development of the Aboriginal Interpretation Initiative, officials of the Department of Justice met with the Deputy Minister of Justice and other officials of the Government of Nunavut and also the Government of Saskatchewan to view their programs and to discuss best practices. The Government of Nunavut has shared its lexicon of legal terms with our Department which has served as a starting point for the development of the Innu-aimun and Inuktitut legal lexicons/dictionaries for use in Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition, Judge Beverly Brown has invited staff of the department to attend circuit court in Nunavut to gain first hand experience of their interpretation and translation services and to meet with additional justice officials in Iqaluit.

The province continued its support of the Native Courtworker Program in 2006-07 with a grant of \$225,400 to Labrador Legal Services. The federal government contribution was \$88,481. Native Courtworkers provide counseling (other than legal) and advocacy to aboriginal adults and youths who have committed or are alleged to have committed a criminal offence.

HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2006-07

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office realized significant success in 2006-07. The Canadian Newspaper Association ranked Newfoundland and Labrador in first place, tied with British Columbia, in its annual National Freedom of Information Audit. This achievement reflects the efforts of the government of Newfoundland and Labrador to operate in a transparent manner.

Amendments to the *Human Rights Code* were passed to prevent discrimination for those over age 65 and on the basis of source of income received Royal Assent in May 2006.

Significant enhancements occurred in the provision of Family Justice Services during the 2006-07 year. Of note:

11 new positions were created throughout the province to provide in the words of the Minister of Justice "... timely and effective mediation, counselling and education services in the hopes of promoting consensual dispute resolution" for families who are separating or divorcing.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission completed its required review of electoral boundaries. The Commission's report was released in January 2007. The recommendations were accepted and incorporated in the *House of Assembly Act* which received Royal Assent on June 14, 2007.

The Department engaged a consultant to report on aboriginal interpretation needs and issues in Innu and Inuit communities in Labrador. The report was publicly released with translations in Innu-aimun and Inuktitut. The recommendations formed the basis for planned Justice system improvements in interpreting services for 2007-08 in Labrador.

The Department has also continued its funding of the Sexual Assault Nurses in Emergency (SANE) program. This program provides coordinated, timely, comprehensive and compassionate care to victims of sexual assault and ensures standardized means of collecting forensic evidence for potential admission in criminal court cases. The program is administered with registered nurses who have advanced education and training in forensic examination of sexual assault victims.

Additional Partnerships

The past year saw the continuation of several important partnerships between the Department of Justice and other government departments, agencies, communities and other levels of government.

Reducing poverty is essential to ensuring a healthy and prosperous future for our Province. In June 2006 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released the Poverty Reduction Strategy: *"Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador"*. The strategy has been developed following an extensive research and consultation process and outlines a plan for a long term integrated approach based on the principles of social inclusion and collaboration. From a planning perspective, the Department of Justice is a partner on the Ministers' Committee, the Deputy Ministers' Committee and the Senior Officials Working Group. Twelve provincial government departments and agencies work together to identify and develop policies and programs designed to help groups most vulnerable to long-term poverty such as: families led by single mothers; single people in general and single older adults in particular; persons with disabilities; and, Aboriginal people.

Additional departmental initiatives which support and are supported by the Poverty Reduction Strategy include an expanded Family Justice Services to provide province-wide counselling and mediation to families who are separating or divorcing. A provincial coordinator and 10 mediator/counsellor positions were filled in various locations provincially. On other fronts, the Corrections Division has trained its staff to enhance their skills in anti-violence programming and offender employment skills. In May 2006 the *Human Rights Code* was amended to include "source of income" as a prohibited ground of discrimination. In this way, those in receipt of financial assistance cannot be denied services, such as housing rental, based on their source of income.

On March 1, 2007 the Family Justice Services Division began the provision of services in separation and divorce matters. This involves mandatory parent education programs when a court application is filed, as well as dispute resolution and counselling when necessary. This division is comprised of a multidisciplinary team including the Supreme Court, Provincial Court, Human Resources, Labour and Employment and Legal Aid.

The province also benefits from an ongoing relationship with Corrections Canada. The province has agreed to adopt federal standards with respect to federal offender programming. This means that provincial Corrections employees receive training in the delivery of federal programming, the federal government carries out quality assurance and the province receives funding from the federal government.

The Department of Justice was actively involved on the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights in various capacities including the preparation of Newfoundland and Labrador's contribution to Canada's 6th and 7th Reports under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Department assisted in the preparation for Canada's presentation before the United Nations Committee under the International Covenant on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Negotiations around the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and discussions around the subsequent signature by Canada of that Convention required the participation of Department of Justice officials. Finally, 2006-07 saw active participation in a federally sponsored seminar on the Human Right to Water.

The Fines Administration Division of the Department of Justice continues to interact with the Department of Government Services' Motor Registration Division. The provision of data related to ticketable offences to Motor Registration results in the voluntary and automatic payment of fines upon renewal of a driver licence or vehicle permit. In addition to ticketable offences, the Fines Administration Division is responsible for billing and collecting all court imposed fines owing to the Province. The filing of debtors who owe amounts over \$500 with the Supreme Court and registration of judgements with the Sheriff's Office allows the Department to pursue civil actions. An expansion of collections staff in the coming fiscal year will allow for the tracking of debtors, the development of payment plans with debtors and reporting to the judiciary regarding adherence to court orders.

The Department of Justice has also established an ongoing relationship with the Department of Natural Resources for the delivery of the Inland Fish Enforcement Program. This program is fully funded by the province. The officers and staff of the program work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, the Canada Wildlife Service (Environment Canada) and Parks Canada to reduce and eliminate serious poaching of salmonid stocks. This program is one of the most effective measures taken by government to ensure the health of and continued access to our salmonid stocks. The 2006 program netted a total of 276 fishing offences resulting in 189 charges being laid. In all, the Crown seized 20 illegal nets, 15 boats, 3 trucks, 5 ATV's, 66 salmon, 270 trout and a large quantity of fishing related equipment. A further 354 other offences falling under wildlife legislation, *All Terrain Vehicle Regulations*, Criminal Code, Fire Regulations and *Migratory Bird Act* were also detected. In total, the Department of Justice's Inland Fish Enforcement Program officers dealt with 630 offences.

In the delivery of justice services within the Province the Department of Justice forms partnerships and provides funding to a number of community groups and non-governmental organizations. We are pleased to be associated with initiatives undertaken by the John Howard Society, Stella Burry Corporation, Community Mediation Services, and the Sexual Abuse Community Services located in Stephenville.

OUTCOME OF 2006-07 OBJECTIVES

Issue 1: Public Protection, Order and Safety

From a public perspective, a key accountability for the Department of Justice involves protecting the public, maintaining order and responding to community safety needs. Significant resources are dedicated to this issue and therefore selecting a single goal is a challenging exercise. The identification of a goal focused on enhancing justice responses to family violence is consistent with Government's commitments, the Minister's interests, the Department's priorities and community need.

GOAL 1

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have enhanced measures to respond to family violence.

Measure	Indicators
Enhanced family violence responses	Implementation of family violence legislation
Outcome:	
New protections and options for victims of family violence created with the <i>Family Violence Protection Act</i> , SNL 2005 Chapter F-3.1 coming into force on July 1, 2006	

Objectives:

√ = Achieved X = Not Achieved

1. By the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, the Department of Justice will have implemented the <i>Family Violence Protection Act</i> .	
Measure: Implementation of Act	
Indicators and Original Targets	Actual Results
√ New policies and protocols developed with internal and external stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and protocols developed with HRLE, NLHC, Legal Aid, HCS, RNC, RCMP, Corrections, Victim Services and Courts
√ Training program developed in conjunction with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training program was developed in conjunction with stakeholders and test piloted with the Justice Minister's Committee on Violence Against Women. A three-pronged training approach is used: 1. interagency training; 2. specialized police and court staff training; 3. information sessions to relevant groups.
√ 30 training sessions will have been held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 interagency training sessions delivered

1. By the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, the Department of Justice will have implemented the *Family Violence Protection Act*.

(con't)

√ A minimum of 600 departmental staff and community stakeholders will have enhanced skill and knowledge through training in implementing the legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,182 people in 21 communities trained – police and court staff accounted for 629
√ Number of Protection Orders sought, including gender breakdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 Emergency Protection Orders sought from July 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 by 53 females, 1 male and 4 unknown.
√ Geographical location of applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 applications were in St. John's with the remainder distributed evenly across the Province; Clarenville had no applications

Issue 2: Access to Justice

Access to justice is a broad issue with many facets that hold the direct interest of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and is an issue that is consistent with Government's commitments. One such component is the enforcement of court ordered child and spousal support payments. The focus on improving responses and access to the many clients who require assistance from Support Enforcement shows how the Department of Justice is committed to directing energies to assist the vulnerable, many of whom are women and children depending on enforcement of court-ordered support.

GOAL 2

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have enhanced services to clients of the Support Enforcement Division.

Measure	Indicators
Enhanced services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative amendments • New compliance tools • Public awareness

Outcome:

Enhanced services became available and are being used as the *Support Orders Enforcement Act, 2006* SNL 2006 Chapter S-31.1 received Royal Assent on May 26, 2006 and was proclaimed into force on April 13, 2007

Objectives:

√ = Achieved X = Not Achieved

1. By the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, the Department of Justice will have enhanced services to clients of the Support Enforcement Division.

Measure : Enhanced support to clients

Indicators and Original Targets	Actual Results
√ Proposed legislative amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New legislation for Support Enforcement was drafted in 2006-07. The <i>Support Orders Enforcement Act 2006</i> received Royal Assent on May 26, 2006 and was proclaimed into force on April 13, 2007.
√ Development of enhanced collections process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of authority to gather information and reporting to credit agencies; able to garnish joint bank accounts; attach pensions; collapse RRSPs and RRIFs; suspend driver's license and big game license.
√ Improved Web-based client access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure web portal launched to improve client access.
√ Increased number of clients accessing website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36,100 web site hits (debtor and creditor combined).
√ Improved client and public awareness through printed resources, media awareness and website educational materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poster campaign initiated; information bulletins posted on web site

Issue 3: Public Trust and Confidence

Public trust and confidence in the justice system is important so that people and institutions can have faith in the fairness of its processes and participate meaningfully when required to do so. The Department has received the final report and recommendations of the Lamer Commission of Inquiry. This report presents significant issues that have broad implications for the administration of justice in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Department committed to a thorough analysis and response, a public release of the Report and the development of a plan of action to respond to the recommendations. The response to the Lamer Commission and the implementation of the privacy provisions in the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* are critical areas of focus for the Department in building public trust and confidence and reflect government's commitments to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

GOAL 3

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have encouraged public trust and confidence in the provincial justice system.

Measure	Indicators
Encourage confidence and trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response to <i>Lamer Inquiry Report</i> (reported in 2006-07)• Implement the privacy provisions of the <i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (2007-08)

Outcome:

Lamer Inquiry Report received and released. Response developed and contained in Budget 07

Objectives:

√ = Achieved X = Not Achieved

1. By the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, the Department of Justice will have analyzed and responded to the Lamer Inquiry Report and recommendations.

Measure: Response to Lamer Inquiry Report

Indicators and Original Targets	Actual Results
√ Analysis and response to Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal analysis completed and it was publicly announced that all recommendations were accepted pending funding support where required and as appropriate.
√ Public release of Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lamer Inquiry Report released June 21, 2006
√ Development and public release of action plan in response to recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$4.9 million phased-in approach developed to implement all 45 recommendations over three years beginning in 2007-08

Issue 4: Aboriginal Issues

There are real challenges and complexities in delivering justice services to aboriginal communities. Federal-provincial lines of authority and responsibility, language barriers, cultural sensitivity and self-government issues, for example, mean that an extra level of attention is required in making justice services more meaningful for aboriginal people. The determined efforts of aboriginal communities and their representatives to raise justice issues on the public agenda combined with Government's stated intentions to improve its response define the fourth key strategic issue for the Department of Justice in this plan.

GOAL 4:

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have contributed to enhanced justice services for aboriginal people and their communities.

Measure	Indicators
Enhanced justice services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective interpretation services
Outcome:	
Aboriginal Interpretation Initiative plan developed	

Objectives:

√ = Achieved X = Not Achieved

1. By the end of fiscal year 2006/2007, the Department of Justice will have developed an interpretation strategy to enhance justice services for aboriginal people and their communities.

Measure: The development of an interpretation strategy

Indicators and Original Targets	Actual Results
√ Research existing Canadian programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for the Advancement of Public Policy, Inc. engaged as consultant. Researched Canadian models, programs and relevant law. • Departmental officials met with Nunavut and Saskatchewan justice officials to explore best practices • Consultant's recommendations formed the basis of budget submissions to begin service enhancements in 2007-08
√ Identify and engage relevant stakeholders √ Number and location of consultation sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for the Advancement of Public Policy, Inc. engaged as consultant. Researched Canadian models, programs and relevant law. Held consultations in a minimum of five Labrador sites as well as St. John's. These consultations were held with Innu Nations and communities, Nunatsiavut Government and communities, RCMP, court interpreters, Legal Aid, Courts, and Department of Justice officials. Departmental meetings were also held internal and external to the Department of Justice to promote this issue and build awareness.
√ Preparation and release of interpretation document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full report was issued, as well as the summary document. "Aboriginal Interpretation Services in the Justice System" Report issued in English Inuktitut and Innu-aimun

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the second year of the Department of Justice's two-year strategic plan remain a priority for the Department during 2007-08. The measures and indicators for our 2007-08 strategic plan goals and objectives are provided in the following pages.

Issue 1: Public Protection, Order and Safety

As stated previously the identification of a goal focused on enhancing justice responses to family violence is consistent with Government's commitments, the Minister's interests, the Department's priorities and community need. The implementation of the *Family Violence Protection Act* represents significant progress in this area. To ensure that the law is having the desired effect our focus for this year will be an evaluation of the implementation of the *Act*.

GOAL 1

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have enhanced measures to respond to family violence.

Measure	Indicators
Enhanced family violence responses	Implementation of family violence legislation

Objectives:

2. By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have evaluated the implementation of the *Family Violence Protection Act*.

Measure	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluation of the implementation of the <i>Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of Emergency Protection Order (EPO) applications including gender and geographic locationNumber of EPOs granted including duration, nature of conditions as well as the number of review hearings and breaches of the legislationInvite applicant feedbackAssess the training to departmental staff and community stakeholders regarding new family violence legislation

Issue 2: Access to Justice

Spousal and child support in separated and divorced families is enshrined in the *Support Orders Enforcement Act, 2006*. Regrettably not all of those who are responsible for this support live up to their responsibilities. As a Province we have committed to ensure that the most up-to-date technology and collection techniques are employed in the enforcement of court-ordered support. Our accomplishments in 2007-08 will serve as a firm foundation for further system enhancements.

GOAL 2

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have enhanced services to clients of the Support Enforcement Division.

Measure	Indicators
Enhanced services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative amendments• New compliance tools• Public awareness

Objectives:

2. By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have more effectively facilitated client financial support services.

Measure	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved financial support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation of Interjurisdictional Support Unit within existing complement• Implementation of Phase II of Web Portal permitting e-mail notification of support payments and e-mail access between clients and case workers• Creation of interface with the federal Department of Justice Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Agency• Creation of interface with the Judgement Enforcement Registry• Issue a new handbook for Support Clients• Translate information and awareness materials into French, Inuktitut and Innu-aimun• Establish pre-authorized debit service for payors• Establish electronic transfer of funds to other jurisdictions

Issue 3: Public Trust and Confidence

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* received Royal Assent in 2002 with part IV, the provisions related to the privacy, to be proclaimed. The Department of Justice will undertake several initiatives in 2007-08 to prepare for the anticipated proclamation. The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office will assess readiness by working with departments to complete Annual Privacy Checklists. These checklists are designed to assess departments' readiness for the proclamation and to identify strategies to reduce privacy risks. The Office will work with departments to develop and implement strategies and privacy plans.

To support public bodies' compliance with the Act, training sessions will be provided to all departments, agencies and municipalities. The Department will build upon existing policies, protocols and tools including the ATIPP Act Policy and Procedures Manual, the Annual Privacy Checklist, the Preliminary Privacy Impact Assessment Checklist and the Privacy Impact Assessment template. The communities of practice, made up of representatives from government departments and other public bodies, will continue to meet to discuss emerging privacy and access issues.

GOAL 3

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have encouraged public trust and confidence in the provincial justice system.

Measure	Indicators
Encourage confidence and trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement the privacy provisions of the <i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (2007-08)• Response to <i>Lamer Inquiry Report</i> (reported in 2006-07)

Objectives:

2. By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have implemented the privacy provisions in the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Measure	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of part IV of the Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess privacy readiness• Assist departments to develop privacy plans• New policies and protocols developed• Training program developed• Training sessions held for staff of government departments, agencies and municipalities• Communities of practice discussions continued

Issue 4: Aboriginal Issues

In preparing responses to aboriginal issues the Department must remain aware of the federal-provincial lines of authority and responsibility, language barriers, cultural sensitivity and self-government. The Department of Justice has a strong commitment to enhance the services it provides to aboriginal people. The Department has recognized the culture of aboriginal people with the addition of a sweat lodge at the Labrador Correctional Facility and employs both Innu and Inuit Prison liaison officers. The Department will build on work begun in 2006-07 to develop an interpretation strategy by commencing the implementation of that strategy.

GOAL 4:

By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will have contributed to enhanced justice services for aboriginal people and their communities.

Measure:

Enhanced justice services

Indicators:

- More effective interpretation services

Objectives:

2. By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Department of Justice will be more effectively delivering interpretation services to aboriginal people involved in the justice system.

Measure

- Effective delivery of interpretation services

Indicators

- Commence implementing recommendations contained in the "Aboriginal Interpretation Services in the Justice System Report"
- Establish a Labrador Advisory Committee for the Interpretation Strategy
- Partner with Memorial University of Newfoundland and aboriginal interpreters to develop a Inuktitut and Innu-aimun lexicon/ dictionary of justice system words and phrases
- Collaborate with the Department of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland and the College of the North Atlantic to develop an Aboriginal Legal Interpreter course
- Partner with the College of the North Atlantic to deliver an Aboriginal Legal Interpreter course in Labrador
- Increase translated resource materials for Innu and Inuit communities
- Begin development of English-Inuktitut-Innu-aimun-French court preparation website.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Beginning in 2006 the Provincial Government undertook a \$2 billion, six-year infrastructure strategy. The Department of Justice will be able to take advantage of funding under that strategy to begin the renewal process of its aging infrastructure. In 2007-08 \$11.3 million will be spent for the construction of a new court house to service the Corner Brook area. The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has received \$500,000 for preliminary planning related to remodelling the Headquarters and Annex (formerly Memorial University College). Recognizing the age of some of the province's penitentiary facilities \$500,000 will be spent to develop a fiscal framework around the planning and design of a new correctional facility. Such development will require input from the Departmental officials and community stakeholders involved in the justice system of this province.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) have demonstrated the success that can be obtained when partnerships among government departments are formed to address complex social issues and improve access to justice. As an active partner in the VPI and as a Department where a significant part of its resources respond to violence intervention and prevention on a daily basis, the Department of Justice will be making concrete enhancements in its response to violence. VPI support will enable the development and delivery of Crown legal information sessions for shelter staff on the laws addressing sexual assault and family violence. Support will also provide for the development of a child court activity book as a resource for child victims and witnesses. In 2007-08 the Department will also begin revising of its *Students Taking Responsibility for Violence Education (STRIVE) Program* and enhance joint training with police and social workers for family violence cases. Significantly, the Department will explore options for specialized family violence treatment courts in 2007-08. Work will begin to develop a multi-lingual court preparation web-site. While substantial inroads will be made, this work will require a focused effort, tight timelines, accountability measures and maintaining connections with stakeholders through such mechanisms as the Justice Minister's Committee on Violence Against Women.

The Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework and Implementation Plan is part of Government's commitment to a healthy province. It defines healthy aging and describes provincial demographics in light of our aging population. This plan is based on the provincial vision of healthy aging. Its principles were developed and endorsed through consultation. (Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework, p. 8) The Department of Justice will contribute to this initiative by supporting the development of improved legislation, policies, programs and services which work toward older adults being free from violence and neglect.

Government is finalizing its Northern Strategic Plan with a release expected early in the 2007-08 fiscal year. The Department of Justice expects to be an active partner in the initiative undertaken to provide enhancements to justice responses and services to Labradorians and Aboriginal communities.

Amendments to the *Human Rights Code* in 2006 and 2007 have highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of the legislation. The Department will be dedicating a resource in 2007-08 to develop recommendations for a complete revision of the *Code*.

As with the rest of the country this Province is experiencing increasingly complex crimes. To combat crimes such as smuggling, partnerships between police agencies and non-governmental organizations are required. Organized crime is no longer a phenomenon reserved for the large metropolitan areas of the country. We have also seen the type and nature of drug-related crimes evolve over the past year. In addition, the trend towards urbanization can be expected to place increased pressure on the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary which is responsible for the delivery of services in our most populous areas. Decreasing rural populations also challenge the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in its commitment to deliver policing services in more sparsely populated areas covering a broad geography. Responding to these and other trends will require the continued cooperation and efforts of the Department and the two police forces that serve this province.

In October 2006 the province hosted the federal/provincial/territorial ministers responsible for justice in annual meetings held at the Humber Valley Resort at Little Rapids. The ministers held substantive discussions on key issues facing Canada's justice system. An outcome of these meetings was a request to develop and implement safer communities legislation that would reduce the impact of drug use in neighbourhoods. The government of Newfoundland and Labrador committed to developing this necessary legislation. In developing new mechanisms and approaches to enhance community safety, Government passed the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. Implementation work is scheduled to begin in 2007-08. As there has been considerable interest in this legislation, additional community session will be required on a provincial basis to provide more opportunity for dialogue and awareness.

Recognizing that national trends will often migrate to Newfoundland and Labrador the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have developed a program in response to the tragic events at Columbine. The RCMP in partnership with the Department of Education will roll out the School Action for Emergencies Program (SAFE) across the province in 2007-08. Through this program police officers will have access to blue prints, aerial photographs and safety information for all schools. The ultimate goal is to help keep our children and educators safe.

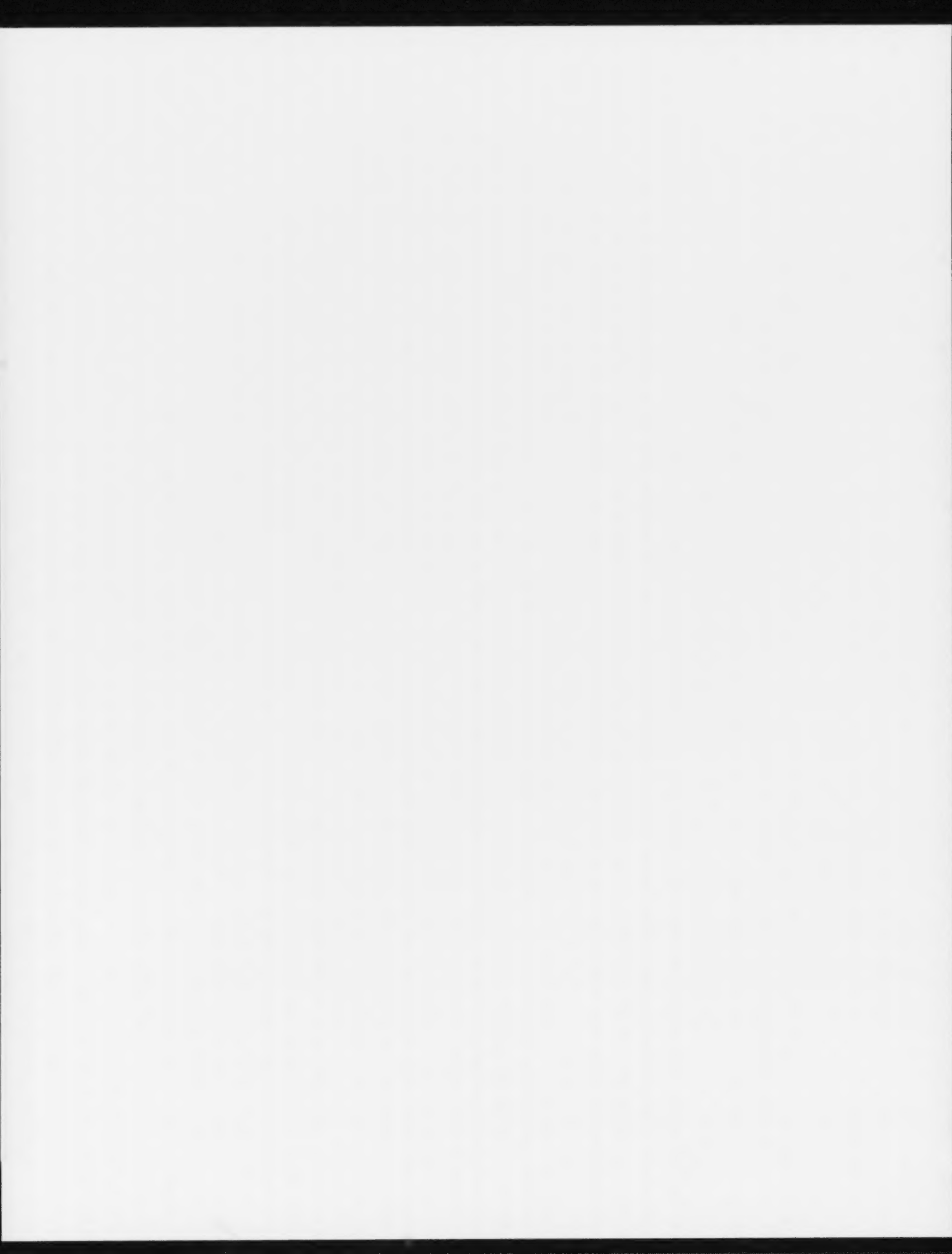
The Department is also very keen to continue its work in alternative justice and to expand the program to benefit adults in our mainstream population. During the next year resources will be dedicated to the training the development of a new alternative justice program. In addition, aboriginal sentencing circles will be employed where feasible and appropriate. Changes in our response to youth involved in crime will continue as the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, adopted in 2003, matures.

The addition of ten positions to serve the needs of separating and divorcing families was a positive step forward to ensure the welfare of children and families. This program is focused on consensual dispute resolution. The success and support for Family Justice Services in its first year has created a clear demand and expectation from Labrador for enhanced service in 2007-08. The Department must address gaps in the initial service delivery model and more effectively respond to Labrador needs, including those of coastal Labrador.

Of significant concern to the Department is the federal government's approach to legal aid funding. 1990-91 was the last year in which the federal and provincial governments were making equal contributions to legal aid. The level of federal support to legal aid has remained

virtually unchanged since 2003-04. The federal government's 2007 budget indicated that criminal legal aid funding would remain at current levels for the next five years. The provinces and territories fund legal aid for parents with low incomes involved in child protection proceedings or seeking custody, access or financial support for themselves or their children. The Department is concerned that increasing demand for criminal legal aid services may erode the funding for civil legal aid.

Newfoundland and Labrador has taken the progressive step of recognizing that both the judiciary and the government have responsibilities for the administration of justice and must work closely together to make the justice system more effective, efficient, accessible and better understood by members of the public. The Department actively participates in the Courts Administration Advisory Board (CCAB) comprised of the Minister of Justice, the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Chief Justice of the Trial Division, the Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Chief Provincial Judge of the Provincial Court. The mandate of the board is to facilitate the administration of justice in the Province.



APPENDIX A
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the "Report of the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year ended 31 March 2007" (unaudited)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	
		AMENDED	ORIGINAL
1.1.01. Minister's Office	235,079	242,700	242,500
1.2.01. Executive Support	1,034,351	1,054,400	956,100
1.2.02. Administrative Support	2,176,960	2,445,463	1,901,100
Less Related Revenue	(193,954)	(131,100)	(131,100)
1.2.03. Legal Information Management	801,562	807,600	832,500
Less Related Revenue	(23,514)	(29,000)	(29,000)
1.2.04. Administrative Support - Capital	1,309,678	1,361,900	1,376,900
1.3.01. Fines Administration	582,054	602,800	707,800
Less Related Revenue	(673,575)	(700,000)	(700,000)
2.1.01. Civil Law	8,266,107	8,795,900	7,679,100
Less Related Revenue	(6,150)	0	0
2.1.02. Sheriff's Office	2,620,941	2,650,400	2,692,000
2.1.03. Support Enforcement	1,223,856	1,526,800	1,422,800
Less Related Revenue	(75,700)	(975,000)	(975,000)
2.1.04. Access to Information & Protection of Privacy	173,993	194,000	299,900
2.2.01. Criminal Law	4,703,068	4,729,500	4,940,000
2.3.01. Legal Aid and Related Services	8,480,200	8,681,500	8,681,500
Less Related Revenue	(4,889,500)	(2,313,900)	(2,313,900)
2.3.02. Commissions of Inquiry	828,991	836,000	351,000
2.3.03. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	458,018	485,000	482,100
2.3.04. Human Rights	327,498	354,800	435,700
2.3.05. Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission	187,580	195,000	500,000
2.4.01. Legislative Counsel	474,450	475,200	472,900
3.1.01. Supreme Court	4,486,353	4,551,800	4,467,600
Less Related Revenue	(432,473)	(287,600)	(287,600)
3.2.01. Provincial Court	8,392,991	8,403,200	7,778,200
3.3.01. Supreme Court Facilities (Capital)	897,584	1,670,000	2,150,000

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	
		AMENDED	ORIGINAL
4.1.01. Royal Newfoundland Constabulary	31,864,857	32,020,900	31,601,300
Less Related Revenue	(484,273)	(373,900)	(373,900)
4.1.02. Royal Canadian Mounted Police	48,825,892	49,367,800	49,473,400
Less Related Revenue	(78,000)	(78,000)	(78,000)
4.1.03. Public Complaints Commission	170,606	208,800	257,600
4.2.01. Adult Corrections	23,776,663	24,106,500	22,807,800
Less Related Revenue	(3,828,470)	(4,121,000)	(4,121,000)
4.2.02. Youth Secure Custody	6,293,961	6,434,900	6,680,800
Less Related Revenue	(799,088)	(2,823,600)	(2,823,600)
5.1.01 Inland Fisheries Enforcement Program	1,019,963	1,021,100	800,000
Total Expenditures - Department of Justice	159,613,256	163,223,963	159,990,600
Total Related Revenue	(11,484,697)	(11,833,100)	(11,833,100)
Public Accounts 2006- 2007 Net	148,128,559	151,390,863	148,157,500

APPENDIX B
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



2006-08 Strategic Directions

1. Public Protection, Order and Safety

Outcome Statement: Improved public protection, order and safety for the people in Newfoundland and Labrador. This outcome supports the policy direction of government and will require systematic intervention in the following areas:

Components of Strategic Direction	Applicable to Other Entities Reporting to the Minister	This Direction is addressed:		
		in the department's strategic plan	in the department's operational plan	in the branch/divisional work plans of the department
Police deployment, recruitment and training			♦	♦
Police equipment			♦	
Court Security				♦
Responses to family violence		♦		

2. Access to Justice

Outcome Statement: Improved access to the justice system. This outcome supports the policy direction of government and will require systematic intervention in the following areas:

Components of Strategic Direction	Applicable to Other Entities Reporting to the Minister	This Direction is addressed:		
		in the department's strategic plan	in the department's operational plan	in the branch/divisional work plans of the department
Court facilities			♦	
Court-related family law support services			♦	
Support services for vulnerable people requiring justice services		♦		
Legal Aid	♦		♦	
Use of technology				♦
Access to information		♦		
Improved efficiencies (administrative)			♦	

3. Public Trust and Confidence

Outcome Statement: Improved public trust and confidence in the justice system. This outcome supports the policy direction of government and will require systematic intervention in the following areas:

Components of Strategic Direction	Applicable to Other Entities Reporting to the Minister	This Direction is addressed:		
		in the department's strategic plan	in the department's operational plan	in the branch/divisional work plans of the department
Inquiry findings		♦		
Protection of privacy		♦		

4. Aboriginal Responses

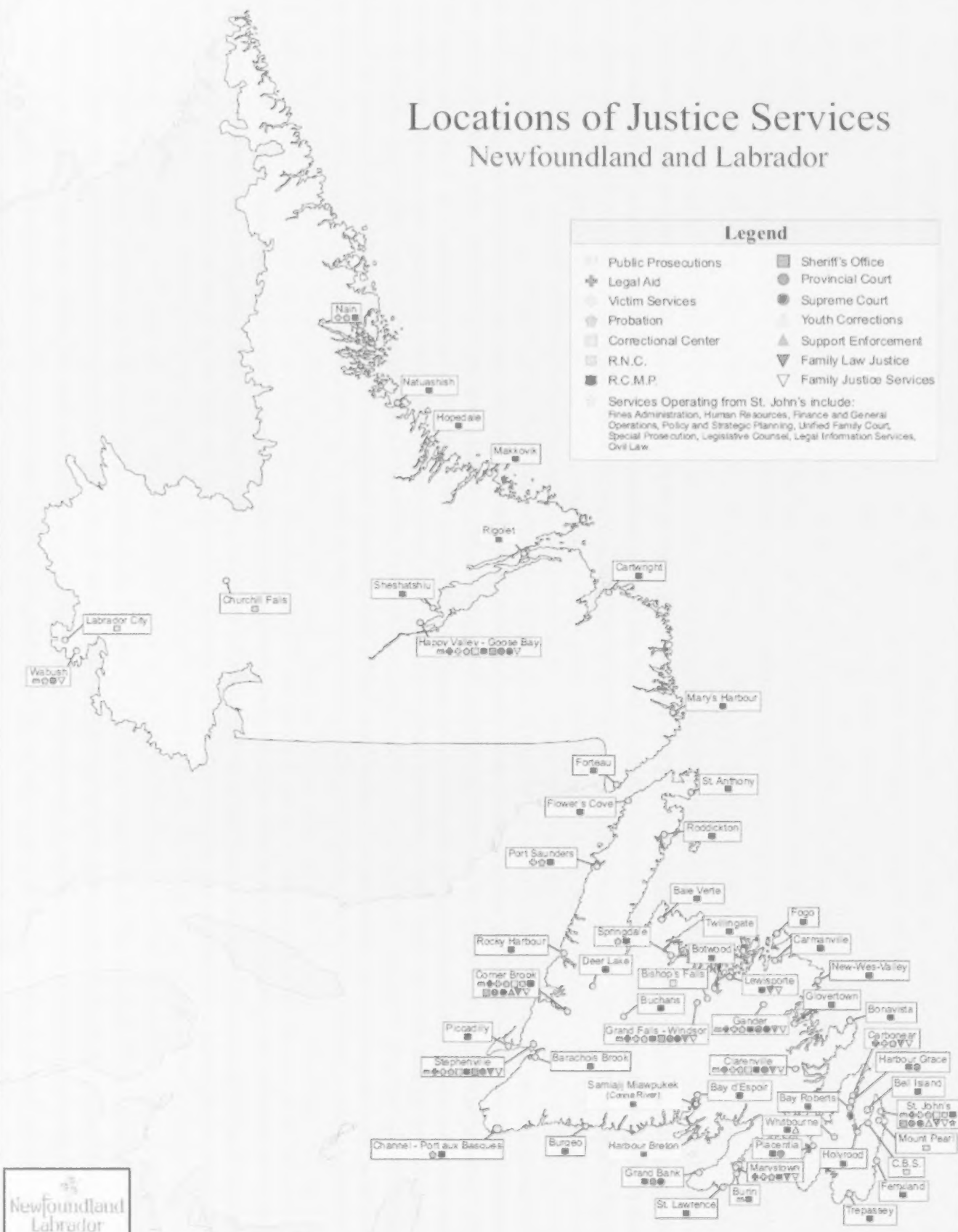
Outcome Statement: Enhanced culturally sensitive justice services to aboriginal people and communities. This outcome supports the policy direction of government and will require systematic intervention in the following areas:

Components of Strategic Direction	Applicable to Other Entities Reporting	This Direction is addressed in:		
		In the department's strategic plan	In the department's operational plan	In the branch/divisional work plans of the department
Interpretation strategy		♦		

Locations of Justice Services Newfoundland and Labrador

Legend

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Public Prosecutions | Sheriff's Office |
| Legal Aid | Provincial Court |
| Victim Services | Supreme Court |
| Probation | Youth Corrections |
| Correctional Center | Support Enforcement |
| R.N.C. | Family Law Justice |
| R.C.M.P. | Family Justice Services |
| <p>Services Operating from St. John's include:
 Fines Administration, Human Resources, Finance and General
 Operations, Policy and Strategic Planning, Unified Family Court,
 Special Prosecution, Legislative Counsel, Legal Information Services,
 Civil Law.</p> | |





Justice